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**FACSIMILE COVER LETTER**

**To:** Commissioner for Patents  
Examiner Joon H. Hwang

**Firm:** U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Art Unit 2166

**Facsimile:** (571) 273-8300

**From:** Thomas F. Presson

**Date:** June 26, 2006

**Re:** FLH Ref No.: 450100-02278  
Serial No: 09/492,044

**Number of Pages:** 12  
(including cover page)

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00345749

PATENT  
450100-02278IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Gentaro Okuyasu, et al.  
 Serial No. : 09/492,044  
 Filed : January 26, 2000  
 For : FREE STORAGE SPACE MANAGEMENT APPARATUS AND METHOD  
 Examiner : Joon H. Hwang  
 Art Unit : 2166

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745 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10151  
Tel: 212-588-0800

**Commissioner for Patents**  
**P.O. Box 1450**  
**Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.

No additional fee is required.  
 The fee has been calculated as shown below.  
 This is an application of a small entity under 37 CFR 1.9(f), and the amounts shown in parentheses apply.

## Claims as Amended

(1)	(2) Claims remaining after amendment	(3)	(4) Highest number previously paid for	(5) Present extra	(6) Rate	(7) Additional Fee
Total claims	8	Minus	** -20	* 0 x	\$50 (25)	= \$ 0
Independent claims	2	Minus	*** =3	* 0 x	\$200 (100)	= \$ 0
Total additional fee for this amendment						\$ 0

\* If the entry in Column 2 is less than the entry in Column 4, write "0" in Column 5.  
 \*\* If the highest number of total claims previously paid for is less than 20, write "20" in this space.  
 \*\*\* If the highest number of independent claims previously paid for is less than 3, write "3" in this space.

This application contains a multiple dependent claim. The required fee of \$280(140) has been previously paid , or is paid herewith .

This response is being filed within the \_\_\_\_\_ month following the expiration of the term originally set therefor. This is a petition to request a \_\_\_\_\_ month extension of time. A check covering the cost of the petition is enclosed.

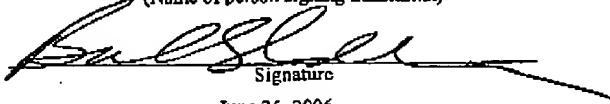
A check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is attached, which covers the cost of  additional claims  petition for extension of time.

Charge \$\_\_\_\_\_ to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Please charge any additional fees incurred by reason of this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

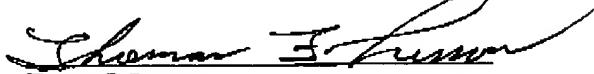
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to (571) 273-8300 on June 26, 2006

Barnet Shindlman  
(Name of person signing transmittal)
  
 Signature  
 June 26, 2006  
 Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP  
Attorneys for Applicants

By:

  
 Thomas F. Presson  
 Reg. No. 41,442  
 Tel: 212-588-0800

00380501

U.S. Appln. No. 09/492,044  
Reply to Final Office Action dated May 22, 2006

PATENT  
450100-02278

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants : Gentaro Okayasu, et al.  
Serial No. : 09/492,044  
For : FREE STORAGE SPACE MANAGEMENT APPARATUS  
AND METHOD  
Filed : January 26, 2000  
Examiner : Hwang, Joon H.  
Art Unit : 2166  
Confirmation No. : 9377

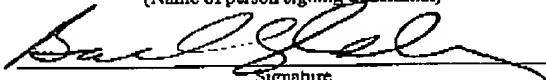
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Barnet Shindman  
(Name of person signing transmittal)

  
Signature  
June 26, 2006  
Date of Signature

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed on May 22, 2006, having a three-month statutory period for response set to expire on August 22, 2006, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

U.S. Appln. No. 09/492,044  
Reply to Final Office Action dated May 22, 2006

PATENT  
450100-02278

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins  
on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 7 of this paper.